



**GOD'S ENCOURAGING WORD ...
*WHEN I AM LONELY***

Sometimes we feel alone because we just don't feel like there is anyone who understands our pain or our problems. At times we can feel all alone, even when surrounded by people, because it just seems like no one really cares about us.

It goes without saying that no one likes to feel lonely. The only thing worse than feeling lonely, is feeling lonely with the burden of shame or guilt. Thankfully, Jesus came to be with us.

The truth is that each one of us deserved to be left alone, because each one of us has separated ourselves from a holy God by our sins. But instead of leaving us alone, God himself drew near to us. So near, that he took all of our sin and guilt and shame upon himself. He gave his life on the cross to take it all away, so that we would never have to be alone.

Yes, there will be times that we feel all alone here

on earth. But we don't have to. Our Savior who died and rose from the dead promises, "Surely, I am with you always, to the

very end of the age." He gave his life to make it happen and his Word to guarantee it forever.



MISSION FESTIVAL – FEBRUARY 11 & 12 & “POT-LUCK DINNER”

WELS World Missions has:

- a presence in 23 different countries;
- helps serve national mission efforts in 14 additional countries;
- serves 79,780 baptized members in Lutheran churches;
- serves 100,000 more souls through correspondence and workshops;
- partners with over 400 national pastors already serving in their own congregations;
- is training more than 170 men to become pastors in their own countries;
- has identified over 300 more men serving in local groups who have asked us to help them train in confessional Lutheranism.
- A WELS missionary will be preaching in our services that weekend. Following the 10:30 am service, we will have an “old fashioned” pot-luck dinner served in

the school. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to be served. In order to assist in planning, there is a sign-up sheet in the back of church indicating what you want to bring to the meal.

Special Door Collection

On that weekend we will also have a door collection to help to build churches in a country that our Synod is working in.

Special Craft Sale

The Christians living in the country are the "poorest of the poor." They have the worst jobs. They are street sweepers, brick kiln workers and toilet cleaners. Their children

will likely never go to school. Because only 8% of Christians can read, many do not know the teachings of the Bible.

Also clergy in this country are poorly educated - if they are educated at all. The pastors are not respected. They are considered beggars. If a child is born with developmental disabilities, people will say, "This child should be a pastor."

In order to help them make a little better salary, they sell baskets, rugs and copperware. Part of the proceeds will be used to support a Bible Institute in that country.

Please come and join us.



KOINÉ AT ST. PAUL'S SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

The band Koiné will be joining us for worship on Sunday, February 18th. All

are welcome to join us for a special worship service.

Recently, Koiné made the following announcement:

“The plan for the band’s long-term future is to transition away from being a full-time year-round traveling ministry to selecting a handful of key events to play while we concentrate on documenting and publishing the vast library of songs, videos and scores we’ve created over our existence. For example, over the last couple of years, we have averaged around 130 events per year. Starting June 1, 2018, we plan on only doing 10-20 events in a year. Big change, but we definitely still plan on being a band and creating more music.

There are many reasons for the transition, and I will not get into all of them here, but most of it can be summarized in this nutshell: Life on the road is hard. It’s hard on us physically, mentally, and emotionally. And even more than that, it’s hardest

on our families. We have never been a “normal” touring band, where you are gone for a while on tour, but then you come home, stop touring for months at a time, and then eventually release another CD and hit the road again. We have essentially been full-time “touring” year-round for almost 10 years now, while recording our CDs on our few “off” days. In those 10 years, we have never gone more than two weeks without having at least one event. Isn’t that crazy? Yeah, that’s us. ;)”

To be completely honest with you, when we began this ministry, we were nervous that there would never be enough requests for us to survive more than a year or two . . . and now here we are almost 15 years later and the real problem is that we cannot keep up with the requests that come in! We have all of you to thank for that, and we give all glory to God alone for that success.

So here is our leap of faith, in the past in order to play shows, record music, create videos, and publish scores, we needed to play a lot - sometimes 200 events a year. The money generated on the road allowed us to be employed as well as set money aside to record and create the next project. In this new phase, taking away the touring is a big unknown. It is by far our largest revenue source. Will fewer shows generate larger crowds? Will people buy our CDs online if we aren't physically in their churches showcasing them? Will the global presence we are starting to see increase ramp up enough to keep us going? Will we have enough time and money to record?

So, our man-made plans right now are to pursue full-time employment opportunities elsewhere beginning in April or May of 2018. In theory, this will fill the financial gap that touring provided. How

many shows we are still able to play in a year may depend on what those jobs end up being and the flexibility we have with scheduling.

We are still playing events we have already scheduled, like the WELS International Youth Rally, Men of His Word Conferences, a Christmas Tour, etc. but want to encourage people, congregations and organizations to still submit their requests and be ambitious with their ideas. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to deliberate the future.

We know the Lord has a plan and a purpose for everything, so we trust that he is working through this and will work it out for our good, and for the good of his Kingdom. We are so blessed to have done this full-time for almost 10 years, and we look forward to the plans God still has for us in the future.”



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Transfers into St. Paul's:

Jacob & Amy Bolda

Child: Ellie Katherine Bolda

Transfer from Grace, Downtown Milwaukee

Kevin Burke

Children: Reese & Avery

Transfer from Trinity, Caledonia

Baptisms:

Ingrid Julia Becker

Parents: Philip & Marie Becker

Ellie Katherine Bolda

Parents: Jacob & Amy Bolda

Emery Pearl Mladenovich

Parents: Nick & Samantha Mladenovich

Funeral:

Irmgard Molкетин

December 4, 2017





LENT 2018

The letter to the Hebrews calls Jesus our "great high priest." This Lenten season, we explore this powerful name of Christ. We will rediscover the perfect life of compassion, service, and sacrifice that Jesus lived for us. Then we will see that Christ serving as our Great High Priest is assurance of our redemption through him alone and motivation for humble works in his name. Services are at 3:30pm and 6:30pm.

The Schedule for our Midweek Lent service is as follows:

February 14

"Jesus is our Self-sacrificing High Priest"
(Pastor Hoff)

February 21

"Jesus is Our Compassionate High Priest"
(Pastor Unnasch)

February 28

"Jesus is Our Great High Priest."
(Pastor Gaertner)

March 7

"Jesus is Our Perfect High Priest."
(Pastor Adams)

March 14

"Jesus Our Great High Priest Makes Us Priests"
(Pastor Unnasch)

March 21

"Jesus Our Great High Priest Serves at a Great Altar."
(Pastor Marshall)



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

How good is our God? He is beyond amazing! What wonderful blessings he pours out on us! I have heard it said that if you were to start to count your blessings you would lose count and the list would continue for some time. February is a month in which people tend to think about "love" and at St. Paul's Lutheran School I think of the love shown to us.

We have many people that volunteer more than "their share" of time to benefit the children and families of our school and you also can be a blessing in so many ways. We have been blessed with new families which translates into an increase of student enrollment this school year. I have received multiple comments on

what a wonderful environment, teachers and staff, and school in general we have here from our non-member families. All of this is because of the relationships we build here at St. Paul's and I thank all of you for that. I continue to hear about the successes of our former students and how they are using their gifts to bless others and share their faith. We have many people who have donated financially to benefit our students and classrooms to continue to prepare the next generation to be faithful Christians in all aspects of life.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church members are a great blessing to us, as you have continued to support us in your time, encouragement, gifts, and

prayers. I ask that you thank and praise God with us in the blessings, and ask him for guidance as we face the challenges of ministry in this sin-filled world.

If you or someone you know wants to learn more about our school please contact us so we can show off the blessing we have here for our community.

Nathan Schulmeister -
Principal



DIVINE CALL HEATHER SCHMIDT

“Dear members of St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, This past Sunday (January 21, 2018) I was notified that the Lord in His Divine Wisdom, has lead Zion Lutheran Church and School in Chesaning, Michigan to issue a call to me to teach grades 2 – 4. This is currently my 12th year here at St. Paul’s. During these years the Lord has blessed me in so many ways, and I have truly enjoyed serving this congregation. I

have much to deliberate during this time that I hold these two calls – one here at St. Paul’s and the other to Zion, and I must decide where the Lord can best use my talents and abilities to serve His Kingdom. I ask for your continued prayers during my deliberation and welcome any and all comments or input you may have.

*In His Service,
Heather Schmidt”*



WISCONSIN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

2018 Academic Top Ten

Wisconsin Lutheran High School is pleased to announce the academic top ten for the Class of 2018:

1. Nathan Wranovsky (St. Paul, Muskego)
2. Meghan Ludke (St. Paul, Muskego)
3. Lauren Konkol (St. John, Wauwatosa)
4. Hannah Lukasik (Victory of the Lamb, Franklin)
5. **Madyson Derouin (St. Paul, Franklin)**
6. Lucas Roecker (Trinity, Waukesha)
7. Lauren Bacik (Trinity, Waukesha)
8. Kristin Uher (Mt. Calvary, Waukesha)
9. Ethan Rindfleisch (St. John, Wauwatosa)
10. Anna Hahm (Zion, Hartland)

Rankings are based on the cumulative GPA (grade point average) of seniors at the end of seven

semesters. If several students share the same cumulative GPA, the following formula is used to break the tie:

- Rigor of study (number of AP courses taken) - 40%
- ACT score - 25%
- National Merit status - 20%
- Co-curricular participation - 15%

Congratulations to these students on their outstanding academic achievements! Especially, congratulations to Madyson Derouin from St. Paul's.

Honey Creek Property Development

“WLHS purchased the 6 buildings on the corner of Bluemound and Honey Creek for international student housing for \$1.5 million in 2014. At the

time, financing was acquired both for the property and the building expansion known as Gifted for Praise. Two loans—one short term for \$3 million (which included the debt on the Honey Creek property) and the other long-term on the building expansion and other long-term maintenance projects—were initiated.

Since the loan exceeded the appraised value of the property, the WLHS Foundation guaranteed a portion of that loan. Both loan payments continue to be paid on time. However, a \$1.5 million “balloon” payment is due in June 2018 on the remaining portion of the short-term loan on the Honey Creek property.

Although the apartments on the Honey Creek property have served well, they were built over seventy years ago and lack modern conveniences which do not make them

attractive to international families and their students — as well as domestic students who are starting to live in them.

This fall, WLHS’ administration began exploring the concept of a Honey Creek LLC which would transfer the six houses of the Honey Creek property into a separate limited liability corporation; add investment capital; pay off the remaining debt to the property; and redevelop the property for future use.

After several positive refinements to the plans, the proposal now involves renovating the property by tearing down all of the current structures and building two separate buildings. The proposed use of the first three-story building is for residential living for international and domestic students along with dormitory supervisors.

The second multi-story building is to be used as

market-rate apartments which would be leased to the public.

Currently, the property is owned by the WLHS Conference, Inc. The proposed steps of the transaction are:

Step 1: Contribute Property to Single-Member LLC Owned by WLHS

The creation of the LLC will allow both flexibility in WLHS’s asset structure as well as a layer of limited liability protection. This transaction requires the approval of the delegates. This will be requested on February 7, 2018 at the next delegate meeting.

Step 2: Convert the Property into Two Separate Condominiums

This step with the conversion of the property into condominiums (unit 1 and 2) allows WLHS control of the land, control of the administrative and

property services, and flexibility to request possible property tax exemption later.

Step 3: Create Investor LLC

By WLHS contributing \$500,000 (which is being donated to WLHS for this specific purpose in February 2018) to the Investor LLC, WLHS will have control and influence of this investors LLC. It also provides protection from liability and allows flexibility for investor group which is assuming the debt instead of WLHS. A total of \$3 million will be invested for this entirety of the project. Please note: the operating agreement for the LLC will be written to give WLHS control over the project—even though their equity contribution is only about 16.6%.

Step 4: Ground Lease Unit One and Unit Two to Investor LLC

Although the ground lease must justify market rate, it does allow the Investor LLC to pay WLHS \$1.5 million up front which WLHS will use to pay off the current debt on the property.

The final structure would handle construction with the investor group guarantying the financing (not including WLHS which will not have to guarantee the debt). The Investor LLC would then leaseback Unit One building to WLHS.

After these steps are completed, Catalyst Construction will be able to build one three story building which will be a modern, attractive and much more efficient dormitory for international and domestic students; and another apartment building which will be rented to the public. By doing this, the high school would be able to transfer a large amount of debt, provide tax deductions to

our investors, and provide attractive and efficient housing for the school to use to house students and potential renters.

This will also solve the challenges of recruiting to the buildings and the growing cost of maintenance for the current student homes, which lack efficiency and have cost the school necessary resources. The WLHS Board of Directors approved the following recommendation.

A New “Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School”

The plan is for WLHS to begin an all-boy's Lutheran high school with special emphasis in developing male leadership for the home, community, church and workplace starting in the fall of 2018. A site in Wauwatosa in the former school owned by Pius X-- north of the Lutheran Home on 76th and North Ave--was granted a special

use permit from the Wauwatosa City Council.

What does this mean for the WLHS Conference?

There will be a new Lutheran high school soon in Milwaukee-area to serve a growing number of students coming from the city. It will be a separate school with its own board of directors. The school will not ask for financial support from conference congregations, nor will it have a delegate assembly. The school will be incorporated under the jurisdiction of the WELS.

2018-2019 rates

They are \$8,950.00 for conference students and

\$11,900.00 for non – conference students. This is a 2.9% increase and a 3.5% increase respectively. Over \$600,000 was provided to families in tuition assistance last year. The rates were set in October of 2017.

The delegates voted to ratify this increase.

Financial Update – October 4, 2017

It was reported that WLHS finished the year in the “black” which we are very thankful for. The extra funds were used for the new Boilers, and this year`s budget is going to be much more challenging.”

TOGETHER

WELS NEWS

WELS members have demonstrated their Christian love and concern

for hurricane victims in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico with over \$1.5 million

in gifts to WELS Christian Aid and Relief. We thank God for this generous response to these disasters. WELS Christian Aid and Relief has been working with local congregations to provide funding for repairs to churches, schools, and homes, as well as for efforts to help the people of the communities in which congregations are located. An assessment visit to Puerto Rico shortly after the hurricane identified immediate needs and paved the way for quick assistance for repairs and supplies. Since so much of the infrastructure in Puerto Rico was still not repaired at that time, another assessment visit took place during the first week of January. The visiting team included Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of World Missions; Mr. Sean Young, director of Mission Operations; Rev. Tim Satorius, WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations contact

for Puerto Rico; and me. We visited all three congregations of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church of Puerto Rico and met with leaders of our sister church. The purpose of our visit was to determine what kind of assistance would be most helpful now that power has been restored to much of the island, building supplies are more available, and travel between cities is now possible. The leaders of the Puerto Rican church were encouraged by our visit, clearly recognized that the Lord will bring blessings even through the tragedy of the hurricane, and were eager to share their optimistic plans for the future. It was heartening to see their strong faith and to hear of their confidence in God's continuing care for them and their small church body. WELS Christian Aid and Relief will be considering recommendations from the visiting team for continuing

relief efforts that will address both short and long-term needs of our sister church. Even though life is returning to normal in many of the areas affected by the storms, there is much work to be done. There may be additional opportunities for volunteers to help in the coming weeks and months. Your continuing prayers are encouraged.

President Mark Schroeder

WELS night at Miller Park

Save the date for the 2018 WELS Night at Miller Park. The date for the fifth annual WELS Night at Miller Park has been determined. Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS

members for the Milwaukee Brewers' game against the Colorado Rockies on Fri., August 3, 2018. Game time is 7:10 p.m.

The Brewers are again offering WELS members up to 50 percent off the price of tickets. Seating will be along the third base line this year and in a block for WELS members. The pricing is: Field Outfield Box sections 126 – 131 for 21/ticket, Loge Outfield Box sections 228 – 232 for \$17/ticket, or Terrace Reserved sections 433 – 437 for \$9/ticket.

The web link to purchase discounted tickets for WELS Night at Miller Park won't be available until March.

